

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension Service****Special Research Grants Program,
Pest Management Alternatives
Research; Fiscal Year 1996;
Solicitation of Proposals****Purpose**

Proposals are invited for competitive grant awards under the Special Research Grants Program—Pest Management Alternatives Research (the “Program”) for fiscal year (FY) 1996. The purpose of this Program is to develop alternatives for critical needs to ensure that farmers, foresters, ranchers and urban pest management specialists and other users have reliable methods of managing pest problems. Emphasis is placed on current and potential loss of select pesticides due to increased worker and food safety and environmental concerns leading to regulator review and actions, and the loss of pest management practices due to performance failures such as those caused by genetic changes in pests.

Authority

The authority for the Program is contained in section 2(c)(1)(A) of the Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law 89–106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(1)(A)). Under this program, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may make grants, for periods not to exceed five years, to State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals for the purpose of conducting research to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

Proposals from scientists at non-United States organizations are not eligible for funding nor are scientists who are directly or indirectly engaged in the registration of pesticides for profit; however, their collaboration with funded projects is encouraged.

Available Funding

Subject to the availability of funds, the anticipated amount available for support of the program in FY 1996 is \$1,584,000. Proposals should be for no more than a two-year period.

It is expected that Congress, in the final version of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (H.R. 1976),

will prohibit CSREES from using the funds available for FY 1996 to pay indirect costs exceeding 14 per centum of the total Federal funds provided under each award on competitively-awarded research grants.

In addition, it is expected that, pursuant to the final version of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (H.R. 1976), in the case of any equipment or product that may be authorized to be purchased with the funds provided under this Program, entities will be encouraged to use such funds to purchase only American-made equipment or products.

Program Description

This program implements the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) signed August 15, 1994, that establishes a coordinated framework for collaborative efforts to develop, implement, and make available pest management alternatives and practices. In this MOU, the USDA and USEPA agreed to: (1) Cooperate in providing for agricultural pest management that is conducted in the most environmentally-sound manner possible, with sufficient pest management alternatives to reduce risks to human health and the environment, to reduce the incidence of pest resistance to pesticides, and to ensure economical agricultural production; and (2) cooperate in establishing a process to conduct the research, technology transfer and registration activities necessary to ensure adequate pest management alternatives are available to agricultural users to meet important agricultural needs for situations in which regulatory action would result in pest management problems.

Applicable Regulations

This Program is subject to the administrative provisions for the Special Research Grants Program found in 7 CFR part 3400 (56 FR 58147, November 15, 1991), which set forth procedures to be followed when submitting grant proposals, rules governing the evaluation of proposals, the awarding of grants, and post-award administration of such grants. Several other Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant proposals considered for review or to grants awarded under the Program. These include, but are not limited to:

7 CFR Part 1.1—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act;

7 CFR Part 1c—USDA implementation of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects;

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A–129 regarding debt collection;

7 CFR Part 15, Subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

7 CFR Part 3015, as amended—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., Circular Nos. A–21, and A–122) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301–6308 (formerly, the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95–224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance;

7 CFR Part 3016—USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments; 7 CFR Part 3017, as amended—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants);

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of New Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes new prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans;

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations implementing OMB Circular A–110;

7 CFR Part 3051—Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions;

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act;

29 U.S.C. 794 section 504—Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 7 CFR Part 15B (USDA implementation of the statute), prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in federally assisted programs;

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq.—Bayh-Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR part 401).

Research Categories for FY 1996

The following priority areas have been identified by USDA and USEPA through interaction with State agricultural experiment station research and extension faculty via the National Pesticide Impact Assessment Program and state and regional Integrated Pest Management program. In addition, commodity groups and producers of affected crops were involved in the identification of project areas. Needs were identified to address replacement technologies for pesticides under current and potential regulatory review for which producers and other users do not have effective alternatives or where regulatory actions trigger pest resistance problems that limit Integrated Pest Management options. Replacements for methyl bromide or pesticide registrations under regulatory consideration because of the Delaney clause are not addressed by this request for proposals. The identified priority areas for FY 1996 projects are:

Commodity	Pest
Alfalfa	Alfalfa weevil.
Artichokes	Aphids. Lygus bugs.
Banana/plaintain	Banana root borer.
Carrots	Nematodes.
Celery	Aphids. Leafminer.
Chinese vegetables ..	Aphids.
Cole crops	Aphids.
Cucurbits	Cucumber beetle. Bacterial wilt.
Eggplant	Verticillium wilt.
Ginger	Nematodes.
Grapes	Grape phylloxera. Mealybugs.
Leafy vegetables	Aphids.
Lettuce	Aphids. Downy mildew.
Mushrooms	Phoridae and scaridae flies.
Parsley	Aphids.
Pecans	Pecan scab.
Rice	Rice water weevils.
Sorghum	Chinch bug.
Spinach	Aphids. Grasshoppers. Webworm.
Sugar beets	White grubs. Cercospora leaf spot.
Sugar cane	Weeds.
Sweetpotatoes	Nematodes.
Tropical fruits	Weeds.
Turf	Weeds.
Wheat	Grasshoppers.

Mite management in alfalfa seed production, apples, apricots, beans-green, beans-dry, citrus, clover seed production, cranberry, figs, grapes, hops, mint, nectarines, peaches, peanut, potatoes, plums, prunes, strawberries in some locations.

Projects dealing with other crops and pest combinations will be considered. The critical need of the alternative based on current or potential regulatory status or pest resistance will have to be clearly documented and justified for all proposals.

The proposal should address:

- (1) Identification, estimation of economic value, and documentation of the pest management problem and losses associated with the pest(s).
- (2) Analysis of the availability of options and their applicability as possible solutions including their compatibility with integrated management systems.
- (3) Explicit documentation is needed to qualify the project emphasizing environmental issues, human safety, or resistance management concerns which make the present management options impractical.
- (4) A summary of past research or extension activities that demonstrate the practicability of the proposed alternative(s).
- (5) A detailed plan for the research, education and technology transfer to achieve the alternative development and field implementation with identified milestones.
- (6) An analysis of the durability of the proposed option and the technologic and economic feasibility of the proposed solution.
- (7) Demonstrated growers' involvement in the identification of potential approaches to solutions and the opportunity for public/private partnerships and matching resources from grower or commodity groups.
- (8) An overview of the availability of natural controls (biological, cultural, and host resistance) as solutions or partial solutions to the pest management problem and compatibility with IPM or crop management systems. This Program will not support basic plant breeding or other tactics where significant progress toward implementation cannot be accomplished within two years. However, this program will support research on the incorporation of pest resistant cultivars into a production system.
- (9) Where registrations of new management options by state and Federal agencies are required, the proposal should describe the collaborative actions being taken with regulators which leads toward registration and use of Good Laboratory Practices (GLP).
- (10) Demonstrate appropriate budget and collaborative funding to accomplish the proposed project.

All projects that involve a new registration of a product or expanded labelling, must be done in compliance with GLP Standards (40 CFR part 160). IR-4 coordinators are available in every state to advise or assist with GLP and registration requirements. Projects involving collaborative registration and funding are encouraged.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by the Administrator of CSREES assisted by a peer panel with Integrated Pest Management expertise. CSREES seeks proposals which address the following issues: (1) Significant reduction of risk to human health or the environment would result; (2) no viable alternatives presently exist and significant potential losses can be documented; (3) there is significant producer involvement; (4) natural controls are included as partial or effective solutions to pest management problems; and (5) solutions can rapidly be brought to bear on critical problems. Registration considerations must be addressed where they are required for solution implementation.

1. Executive Summary—10 points
(An evaluation of how well the proposal summary can be understood by a diverse audience of university personnel, producers, various public and private groups, budget staff and the general public)
2. Appropriateness of the Budget—5 points
(An evaluation of appropriate and detailed budget request and collaborative funding to accomplish the proposed project; collaborative arrangements clearly document)
3. Problem Statement, Background and Rationale—15 points
(Includes the evaluation of significant reduction of risk to human health or the environment; no viable alternatives presently exist; and significant potential losses would occur without the alternative(s) being developed under this proposal)
4. Research, Education & Technology Transfer Plan—40 points
(In addition to the evaluation of a detailed plan for research, education, and technology transfer and summary of past research or extension activities that demonstrate the practicability of the proposed alternative(s), includes the evaluation of whether the proposed solutions could rapidly be brought to bear on critical problems and registration considerations are addressed where they are required for solution implementation)

5. Producer Involvement—15 points
(Evaluation includes growers' involvement in the identification of potential approaches to solutions and the opportunity for public/private partnerships and matching resources from grower or commodity groups)
6. Professional Competence of the Project Team—5 points
7. Integration of Natural Control Solutions—10 points
(Includes the evaluation that natural controls are included as partial or effective solutions to the pest management problems being addressed and an analysis of the durability of the proposed option and the technologic and economic feasibility of the proposed solution)

Programmatic Contact

For additional information on the Program, please contact: Dr. Barry Jacobsen, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 2220, Washington, DC 20250-2220, Telephone: (202) 401-6627.

How To Obtain Application Materials

Copies of this solicitation, the administrative provisions for the Program (7 CFR part 3400), and the Application Kit, which contains required forms, certifications, and instructions for preparing and submitting applications for funding, may be obtained by contacting:

Proposal Services Branch, Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 2245, Washington, DC 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Application materials may also be requested via Internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail) and telephone number to psb@reeusda.gov that states that you wish to receive a copy of the application materials for the FY 1996 Special Research Grants Program—Pest Management Alternatives Research. The materials will then be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible.

Proposal Format

Members of review committees and the staff expect each project description to be complete in itself. The administrative provisions governing the Special Research Grants Program, 7 CFR part 3400, set forth instructions for the preparation of grant proposals. The following proposal format requirements deviate from those contained in section 3400.4(c). The provisions of this solicitation shall apply.

Proposals submitted to the Program should address the described criteria. Each proposal should provide a detailed plan for the research, education and technology transfer required to implement the alternative solution in the field. Involvement of growers or other users in the project is essential and should be clearly identified.

Proposals should adhere to the following format: items 3-6 should not exceed 12 single spaced/single-sided pages altogether, using 12 point (10 cpi) letter quality type with 1 inch margins. The pages should be numbered.

(1) *Application for Funding (Form CSREES-661)*. All full proposals submitted by eligible applicants should contain an Application for Funding, Form CSREES-661, which must be signed by the proposed principal investigator(s) and endorsed by the cognizant Authorized Organizational Representative who possesses the necessary authority to commit the applicant's time and other relevant resources. Investigators who do not sign the full proposal cover sheet will not be listed on the grant document in the event an award is made. The title of the proposal must be brief (80-character maximum), yet represent the major emphasis of the project. Because this title will be used to provide information to those who may not be familiar with the proposed project, highly technical words or phraseology should be avoided where possible. In addition, phrases such as "investigation of" or "research on" should not be used.

(2) *Executive Summary*. Describe the project in terms that can be understood by a diverse audience of university personnel, producers, various public and private groups, budget staff and the general public. This should be no more than one page in length.

(3) *Problem Statement*. Identify the pest management problem addressed, its significance and options for solution. Define the production area addressed by the proposed solution and the potential applicability to other production regions.

(4) *Rationale and Significance*. Provide information on the basis and rationale for the proposed project. Compatibility with current Integrated Pest Management and crop production practices, technologic economic feasibility and potential durability should be addressed. Explicit documentation is needed to qualify the project emphasizing environmental issues, human safety, or resistance management concerns that make present management options impractical.

(5) *Research, Education and Technology Transfer Plan*. Provide a

detailed plan with milestones identified.

(6) *Producer Involvement*. Provide information on producer or other user involvement in identification of the proposed solution and involvement in implementing the proposed solution.

(7) *Facilities and Equipment*. All facilities and major items of equipment that are available for use or assignment to the proposed research project during the requested period of support should be described. In addition, items of nonexpendable equipment necessary to conduct and successfully conclude the proposed project should be listed.

(8) *Collaborative Arrangements*. If the nature of the proposed project requires collaboration or subcontractual arrangements with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, or entities, the applicant must identify the collaborator(s) and provide a full explanation of the nature of the collaboration. Evidence (i.e., letters of intent) should be provided to assure peer reviewers that the collaborators involved have agreed to render this service. In addition, the proposal must indicate whether or not such collaborative arrangement(s) has the potential for conflict(s) of interest.

(9) *Personnel Support*. To assist peer reviewers in assessing the competence and experience of the proposed project staff, key personnel who will be involved in the proposed project must be identified clearly. For each principal investigator involved, and for all senior associates and other professional personnel who expect to work on the project, whether or not funds are sought for their support, the following should be included:

(i) An estimate of the time commitments necessary;

(ii) *Curriculum vitae*. The curriculum vitae should be limited to a presentation of academic and research credentials, e.g., educational, employment and professional history, and honors and awards. Unless pertinent to the project, to personal status, or to the status of the organization, meetings attended, seminars given, or personal data such as birth date, marital status, or community activities should not be included. The vitae shall be no more than two pages each in length, excluding the publication lists. The Department reserves the option of not forwarding for further consideration a proposal in which each vitae exceeds the two-page limit; and

(iii) *Publication List(s)*. A chronological list of all publications in referred journals during the past five years, including those in press, must be provided for each professional project

member for whom a curriculum vitae is provided. Authors should be listed in the same order as they appear on each paper cited, along with the title and complete reference as these items usually appear in journals.

(10) *Budget.* A detailed budget is required for each year of requested support. In addition, a summary budget is required detailing requested support for the overall project period. A copy of the form which must be used for this purpose, Form CSREES-55, along with instructions for completion, is included in the Application Kit and may be reproduced as needed by applicants. Funds may be requested under any of the categories listed, provided that the item or service for which support is requested may be identified as necessary for successful conduct of the proposed project, is allowable under applicable Federal cost principles, and is not prohibited under any applicable Federal statute.

(11) *Research Involving Special Considerations.* A number of situations encountered in the conduct of research require special information and supporting documentation before funding can be approved for the project. If any such situation is anticipated, the proposal must so indicate. It is expected that a significant number of proposals will involve the following:

(i) *Recombinant DNA and RNA molecules.* All key personnel identified in a proposal and all endorsing officials of a proposed performing entity are required to comply with the guidelines established by the National Institutes of Health entitled, "Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules," as revised. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for such certification of compliance (Form CSREES-622).

(ii) *Human subjects at risk.* Responsibility for safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects used in any proposed project supported with grant funds provided by the Department rests with the performing entity. Regulations have been issued by the Department under 7 CFR Part 1c, Protection of Human Subjects. In the event that a project involving human subjects at risk is recommended for award, the applicant will be required to submit a statement certifying that the project plan has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at the proposing organization or institution. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for such certification (Form CSREES-662).

(iii) *Experimental vertebrate animal care.* The responsibility for the human care and treatment of any experimental

vertebrate animal, which has the same meaning as "animal" in section 2(g) of the Animal Welfare Act of 1966, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2132(g)), used in any project supported with grant funds rests with the performing organization. In this regard, all key personnel associated with any supported project and all endorsing officials of the proposed performing entity are required to comply with the applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act of 1966, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*) and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of Agriculture in 9 CFR parts 1, 2, 3, and 4. The applicant must submit a statement certifying that the proposed project is in compliance with the aforementioned regulations, and that the proposed project is either under review by or has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The application kit contains a form which is suitable for such certification (Form CSREES-662).

(12) *Current and Pending Support.* All proposals must list any other current public or private research support (including in-house support) to which key personnel identified in the proposal have committed portions of their time, whether or not salary support for the person(s) involved is included in the budget. Analogous information must be provided for any pending proposals that are being considered by, or that will be submitted in the near future to, other possible sponsors, including other USDA programs or agencies. Concurrent submission of identical or similar proposals to other possible sponsors will not prejudice proposal review or evaluation by the Administrator for this purpose. However, a proposal that duplicates or overlaps substantially with a proposal already reviewed and funded (or that will be funded) by another organization or agency will not be funded under this program. The Application Kit contains a form which is suitable for listing current and pending support (Form CSREES-663).

(13) *Additions to Project Description.* Each project description is expected by the Administrator, the members of peer review groups, and the relevant program staff to be complete while meeting the page limit established in this section (Proposal Format). However, if the inclusion of additional information is necessary to ensure the equitable evaluation of the proposal (e.g., photographs that do not reproduce well, reprints, and other pertinent materials that are deemed to be unsuitable for inclusion in the text of the proposal), 14 copies of the materials should be submitted. Each set of such materials

must be identified with the name of the submitting organization, and the name(s) of the principal investigator(s). Information may not be appended to a proposal to circumvent page limitations prescribed for the project description. Extraneous materials will not be used during the peer review process.

(14) *Organizational Management Information.* Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one-time basis prior to the award of a grant for this Program if such information has not been provided previously under this or another program for which the sponsoring agency is responsible. The Department will contact an applicant to request organizational management information once a proposal has been recommended for funding.

Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

As outlined in 7 CFR part 3407 (the CSREES regulations implementing NEPA), environmental data or documentation for any proposed project is to be provided to CSREES in order to assist CSREES in carrying out its responsibilities under NEPA. In some cases, however, the preparation of environmental data or documentation may not be required. Certain categories of actions are excluded from the requirements of NEPA. The applicant shall review the following categorical exclusions and determine if the proposed project may fall within one or more of the exclusions.

(1) *Department of Agriculture Categorical Exclusions (7 CFR 1b.3)*

(i) Policy development, planning and implementation which are related to routine activities such as personnel, organizational changes, or similar administrative functions;

(ii) Activities which deal solely with the funding of programs, such as program budget proposals, disbursements, and transfer or reprogramming of funds;

(iii) Inventories, research activities, and studies, such as resource inventories and routine data collection when such actions are clearly limited in context and intensity;

(iv) Educational and informational programs and activities;

(v) Civil and criminal law enforcement and investigative activities;

(vi) Activities which are advisory and consultative to other agencies and public private entities; and

(vii) Activities related to trade representation and market development activities abroad.

(2) CSREES Categorical Exclusions (7 CFR 3407.6)

Based on previous experience, the following categories of CSREES actions are excluded because they have been found to have limited scope and intensity and to have no significant individual or cumulative impacts on the quality of human environment:

(i) The following categories of research programs or projects limited size and magnitude with only short-term effects on the environment:

(A) Research conducted within any laboratory, greenhouse, or other contained facility where research practices and safeguards prevent environmental impacts;

(B) Surveys, inventories, and similar studies that have limited context and minimal intensity in terms of changes in the environment; and

(C) Testing outside of the laboratory, such as in small isolated field plots, which involves the routine use of familiar chemicals or biological materials.

(ii) Routine renovation, rehabilitation, or revitalization of physical facilities, including the acquisition and installation of equipment, where such activity is limited in scope and intensity.

In order for CSREES to determine whether any further action is needed with respect to NEPA (e.g., preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS)), pertinent information regarding the possible environmental impacts of a

proposed project is necessary; therefore, the National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions Form (Form CSREES-1234) provided in the Application Kit must be included in the proposal indicating whether the applicant is of the opinion that the project falls within one or more of the categorical exclusions listed above.

Even though a project may fall within the categorical exclusions, CSREES may determine that an EA or an EIS is necessary for a proposed project should substantial controversy on environmental grounds exist or if other extraordinary conditions or circumstances are present that may cause a project to have a significant environmental effect.

Proposal Submission

What To Submit

An original and 14 copies of a proposal must be submitted. Each copy of each proposal must be stapled securely in the upper lefthand corner (DO NOT BIND). All copies of the proposal must be submitted in one package.

Where and When To Submit

Proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on December 12, 1995. Proposals sent by First Class mail must be sent to the following address: Proposal Services Branch, Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 2245,

Washington, D.C. 20250-2245, Telephone: (202) 401-5048.

Proposals that are delivered by Express mail, a courier service, or by hand must be submitted to the following address (note that the zip code differs from that shown above): Proposal Services Branch, Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 303, Aerospace Center, 901 D Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20024, Telephone: (202) 401-4048.

Supplementary Information

The Special Research Grants Program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Under No. 10.200. For reasons set forth in the final rule-related Notice to 7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart V (48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983), this Program is excluded from the scope of Executive Order No. 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Action of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3504(h)), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0022.

Done at Washington, D.C., on this 31st day of October 1995.

Colien Hefferan,

Acting Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

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